



**Notice**  
December 19, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 161 The Crown (17K161) From K-8 to K-5 Beginning in 2012-2013**

### **I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.**

P.S. 161 The Crown (17K161, “P.S. 161”) is an existing school located in school building K161 (“K161”), at 330 Crown Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225, in Community School District 17 that currently serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade. P.S. 161 serves kindergarten through fifth grade students in its zone, and it currently admits sixth grade students through a school-based application. It also offers one section of the District 17 Gifted and Talented program in kindergarten through fifth grade. The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a “grade truncation” meaning that P.S. 161 would no longer serve sixth through eighth grade students and would only serve kindergarten through fifth grade students. P.S. 161 is the only school organization housed in K161.

This proposal to truncate P.S. 161’s grades is not expected to impact current sixth through eighth grade students enrolled at P.S. 161, with the possible exception of students who do not meet promotional requirements at the end of the proposed truncation. Also, this proposal will not affect the section of the Citywide Gifted and Talented program at P.S. 161. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 161 will gradually stop serving middle school students. At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, P.S. 161 will no longer enroll sixth grade students. All eighth grade students who meet promotional standards will apply to high school through the Citywide High School Admissions Process, and students in the sixth and seventh grades who meet promotional requirements will remain at the school for seventh and eighth grade, respectively. During the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 161 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and seventh and eighth grade. During the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 161 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and eighth grade. After the last class of eighth grade students graduates in June 2014, P.S. 161 will no longer serve any middle school grades.

At this time, there are no plans to co-locate any other organizations in K161. The DOE will continue to assess seat capacity and the needs in District 17 and across the borough to determine the most optimal use of the space that will be vacated by the proposed grade truncation of P.S. 161. Proposals for significant changes in building utilization will follow the process outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-190.

*Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process*

Schools are identified for possible grade reconfiguration or phase out for the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor rating on their annual Quality Review; or (3) they have been identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as Persistently Low Achieving (“PLA”). Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a D or F, or a third consecutive grade of C or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that received a rating of Underdeveloped on their most recent Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of grade truncation or phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools based on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment, which includes attendance and survey feedback from parents, teachers, and sixth- to twelfth-grade students, where applicable. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observe classrooms and talk with students, staff and families. Schools are rated on a four-point scale, with “Underdeveloped” as the lowest possible rating and “Well Developed” as the highest.

A school’s Progress Report and its Quality Review may initially suggest a school should be considered for intervention, but no single criteria leads to a grade truncation decision. To identify the appropriate action that will best serve the student community, the DOE reviews school data, consults with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathers community feedback.

P.S. 161 earned an overall D grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, P.S. 161 earned an overall C grade, on the 2008-2009 Progress Report it earned an overall A grade, and on the 2007-2008 Progress Report, it earned an overall C grade.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 161 with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the P.S. 161 community. After completing that review, the DOE believes that a grade truncation will best serve students and the community. Truncating P.S. 161’s middle school grades will allow for the school to more fully focus on serving its kindergarten through fifth grade students.

## **II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.**

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 161 The Crown’s main office.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

## **IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.**

Name: Jeanie Baik  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

**V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.**

January 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 161 The Crown  
330 Crown Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

**VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.**

February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
Brooklyn Technical High School  
29 Fort Greene Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217